



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

vin
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/628,471

07/29/2003

Ikutaro Nagatsuka

116705

4700

25944

7590

12/20/2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC

P.O. BOX 19928

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

HUFFMAN, JULIAN D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2853

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
----------------------------------------	-----------	---------------

3 MONTHS

12/20/2006

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/628,471

Applicant(s)

NAGATSUKA ET AL.

Examiner

Julian D. Huffman

Art Unit

2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4, 6-13, 21, 22 and 24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 5, 14, 16-20, 23 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 15 and 26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 4, 6-13, 21, 22 and 24 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 14 March 2006.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 3 is unclear. The language "wherein the control section controls the image forming device to discharge the rewritable image recording medium to a first or a second discharging tray based on how many times..." should be used.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 2, 5, 14, 16-20, 23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takagi (JP 4-39043) in view of Shishido et al. (JP 2000-158797).

Takagi discloses :

With regards to claim 1, an image forming device (fig. 1) comprising:

a recording section (1c, 1m, 1y, 1Bk, element 3) that records a predetermined image on an image recording medium;

a control section that controls the recording section to record a test image, distinct from the predetermined image, on a recording medium (fig. 14, element 101);

a detection section (14) that detects an image characteristic value of the test image recorded on the image recording medium; and

a determination section that determines whether the image characteristic value detected by the detection section is within an allowable range or not (fig. 14).

With regards to claim 2, wherein the control section controls the recording section so that before the predetermined image is recorded, the test image is recorded, and when the image characteristic value detected by the detection section is outside the allowable range, image recording conditions for recording the predetermined image on an image recording medium are set based on the detected image characteristic value (abstract).

With regards to claim 5, the predetermined image is recorded based on the image recording conditions set by the control section, when the image characteristic value detected by the detection section is within the allowable range (abstract).

With regards to claim 14, the detection section detects display densities of the test image (abstract).

With regards to claim 16, an image forming method comprising:

recording a test image on an image recording medium based on predetermined image recording conditions set for a predetermined image, distinct from the test image, to be recorded on an image recording medium;

detecting an image characteristic value of the test image recorded on the rewritable image recording medium; and

determining whether the detected image characteristic value is within an allowable range or not (abstract).

With regards to claim 17, recording the predetermined image on an image recording medium, based on the predetermined image recording conditions, when it is determined that the image characteristic value detected in the detecting step is within the allowable range (after calibration, a predetermined image is recorded using the conditions obtained in the calibration).

With regards to claim 18, changing the predetermined image recording conditions so that the detected image characteristic value approaches the allowable range, when it is determined that the image characteristic value detected in the detecting step is outside the allowable range (abstract); and

subsequently re-recording the test image on the image recording medium, based on the changed image recording conditions (abstract).

With regards to claim 19, changing the image recording conditions;

recording the test image on the image recording medium, based on the changed image recording conditions;

detecting the image characteristic value; and

determining whether the detected imaged characteristic value is within the allowable range, are repeated until it is determined that a current image characteristic value detected in the detecting step is within the allowable range (abstract).

With regards to claim 20, changing the image recording conditions;

recording the test image on the image recording medium, based on the changed image recording conditions;

detecting the image characteristic value; and

determining whether the detected image characteristic value is within the allowable range,

are repeated until a number of repetitions reaches a predetermined number (abstract).

With regards to claim 25, the image characteristic value includes a display density of an image (constitution/abstract).

Takagi does not disclose recording on a rewritable image recording medium (deleting the test image on the rewritable image recording medium) and recording the predetermined image on said rewritable image recording medium, the output image including the predetermined image and not including the test image.

Shishido et al. discloses test printing on a rewritable image recording medium, and deleting the test image so that it may be reused (0009, machine translation).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Takagi to form the test image on a rewritable image recording medium, erase the test image, and form the predetermined image on the rewritable image recording medium, as suggested by Shishido, for the purpose of enabling reuse of a recording medium thereby preventing waste (0046).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant argues the combination of Takagi and Shishido. Applicant elaborates on the teachings of Shishido, that recording ratio of liquids is controlled to either produce a permanent long term image or a temporary trial image. Applicant thus argues that since the ratios are different in the respective recording of the liquids, the image recording conditions are different for the respective images. Regardless of whether this assertion is true or relevant, the claims do not recite that the image recording conditions are the same.

Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 3, 15 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to overcome any objections outlined in paragraph 2 above and in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

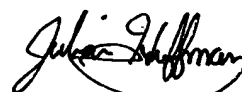
7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julian D. Huffman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2147. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00a.m.-6:30p.m. Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Julian D. Huffman
Art Unit 2853
11 December 2006